

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

There may not be another opportunity with this session coming to a close to thank my colleague on the floor in the context of doing a bill for our veterans. His leadership in Veterans' Affairs has been extraordinary. The impact of his service on this committee will have a beneficial effect on millions and millions of veterans for many, many years to come, and I thank him for all of his hard work.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4231.

It is a good bill that will give the Department of Veterans Affairs some new opportunities to meet the challenges of maintaining a strong nursing workforce during the severe nursing shortage projected for the near future.

I have said many times that nurses are the lifeblood of our medical care system.

VA should be looking at any and all feasible options for ensuring that it is able to satisfy the needs and expectations of these valuable employees.

I want to commend the chairman and ranking member of our Health Subcommittee for their work on this bill and urge Members to support it.

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4231, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

COMMENDING FESTIVAL OF CHILDREN FOUNDATION

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 759) commending the Festival of Children Foundation for its outstanding efforts on behalf of children and expressing the support of the House of Representatives for the designation of a "Child Awareness Month," as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 759

Whereas children represent the Nation's future and numerous individuals and organizations across the United States devote precious time, energy, and resources to enrich that future by helping children advance their hopes and dreams and to realize their aspirations;

Whereas it is in the public interest to increase awareness of children's special needs and the demonstrably effective efforts of those making a real difference in children's lives, which in turn and over time will serve to strengthen the social fabric of our country;

Whereas the Festival of Children Foundation has been established in southern California (1) to showcase those non-profit groups performing exemplary works, so that they may through increased exposure secure and sustain the volunteer, leadership, and financial support necessary to be successful, (2) to provide a free resource to such groups so that they might more easily leverage scarce resources through creative, collaborative efforts to serve their shared constituencies for the betterment of the community at large, and (3) to provide a free and effective platform to facilitate such groups sharing lessons learned in bringing a results orientation to community mobilization, strategic planning, and overall best practices;

Whereas during the last two years more than 100 non-profit groups in southern California have benefited enormously from exposure they could not otherwise have received but for the Festival of Children Foundation, principally through programs and activities at partner organizations such as retail, commercial, and cultural centers;

Whereas September is a time, as children return to school, that families and the Nation as a whole are especially mindful of children and their special needs and opportunities; and

Whereas in September 2004 the Festival of Children Foundation, working with its partners, has invited 50 agencies and organizations that serve children throughout southern California to have a month of high profile exhibits along with another 50 such groups to participate in other programs and activities as part of the Foundation's ongoing mission: Now, therefore, be it—

Resolved, That the House of Representatives commends the Festival of Children Foundation of southern California—

(1) for its outstanding efforts on behalf of children; and

(2) for the difference that it is making in the communities in which it is active and in the lives of children.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 759.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Nebraska?

There was no objection.

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 759 offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRBACHER). This resolution honors the Festival of Children Foundation for its outstanding efforts on behalf of children.

Children represent the Nation's future, and numerous individuals and organizations across the United States devote precious time, energy and resources to enrich that future by helping children advance their hopes and dreams and to realize their aspirations.

The Festival of Children Foundation is one such organization that has experienced overwhelming success serving

the needs of children in the Orange County community. Through collaboration with numerous charities, the foundation seeks to improve the lives of children and families living in the community by fostering education, community involvement and the arts. Instead of operating independently, charities are able to pool both their resources and ideas to better serve the children and families of southern California.

The Festival of Children Foundation expands the reach of the nonprofits in their community, and their efforts on behalf of children should be emulated. I would like to take this opportunity to commend their work on behalf of children and also their efforts to increase awareness of children's special needs.

I thank my colleague from California for introducing this resolution and urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, Walt Disney once said that "our greatest natural resource is the minds of our children."

Today, we honor the Festival of Children Foundation, an organization that improves the lives of children and families in Orange County, California, by collaborating with local children's charities to promote education, community involvement and the arts.

In the last 2 years, more than 100 nonprofit groups in southern California have benefited enormously from the exposure, partnership and assistance of the Festival of Children Foundation. In particular, the foundation has declared September 2004 as a month to "Celebrate the Magic of Childhood." It is working with 52 agencies and organizations to serve the children of southern California with high-profile exhibits to continue with the foundation's mission.

I would like to congratulate the foundation on its excellent work to strengthen their community and to benefit the lives of children, and I would like to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRBACHER) for introducing this meaningful legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRBACHER).

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman very much for the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support for my own bill, H. Res. 759 commending the Festival of Children. Millions of good-hearted American volunteers donate their time, their talent and their personal treasure to help lost and needy children, but no matter how noble the cause, these wonderful charities and their volunteers must struggle just to let the community know

what is available to those who are in need. Clearly, children's charities struggle to find private sources of money to sustain their benevolent programs.

Mr. Speaker, in Orange County, California, we are trying to do our best to do the best. Our needy children are put in this spotlight by a month-long event dedicated to assist organizations that are working with deprived and neglected children.

The Festival of Children Foundation hosts the activities of Child Awareness Month at South Coast Plaza in Costa Mesa, California, which is part of my district.

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South Coast Plaza is a premier commercial and shopping location; yet with generosity and kindness, this center also becomes a center of love and caring for children.

There, among the upper crust and upper level stores and shops, you will find new ways during this month of helping children and helping those organizations that are designed to help children. Each year, during the month of September, scores of charities, like the Make-a-Wish Foundation and the Blind Children's Learning Center, are given tremendous support to come together under one roof, and not just one roof but under the roof of one of California's most visited shopping centers, to reach out to tens of thousands of families and then make a difference in the lives of multitudes of children.

Too often in our communities many families have not even been aware that certain charities exist; and at the same time, there are many who are willing to volunteer their energy and their resources to help these charities, yet they do not know these charities even exist. In the meantime, we see there are charities that spend much of their scarce resources that should be going directly to the children to overcome this gulf that separates them from both the donors and the needy.

Well, I take this problem very seriously, and I take caring for the children very seriously. I always have, but that has been brought home to me in a very special way, because yesterday marked the 5-month anniversary of the birth of my three children, my triplets, Amika, Christian, and Trestin. These are lovely little babies, but it certainly has impressed upon me that we need to care for all the babies. We need to make sure that all the children of this world can reach their potential and have a happy life.

And so I applaud those individuals who are engaged in this noble, noble effort. I especially applaud the individual initiative of Sandy Segerstrom Daniels, the founder of the Festival of Children. She took the initiative to form a private nonprofit organization bringing all of Orange County's children's charities together. She enlisted nationally known celebrities, like Arnold Schwarzenegger, Olivia Newton-John

and Pat Riley, and others to boost the participation in the children's charities at the Festival of Children.

The effort has paid off. Hundreds of charities and thousands of families now look forward to the month of September when they can gather at the Festival of Children, there at the South Coast Plaza. I am pleased to see this example of a private initiative for a public charity is catching on and that the Festival of Children is expanding into other States.

So with this pride in the accomplishment and the benevolence and the good hearts of some of my constituents, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Festival of Children.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ).

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY), and I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 759, a bill that recognizes and commends the important work of the Festival of Children Foundation.

The Festival of Children Foundation is an umbrella organization that helps foster collaboration between children's charities in the areas of education, community involvement, and arts appreciation. I want to acknowledge Sandy Segerstrom Daniels, who is here with us today, for her work with respect to this festival.

We in Congress need to increase the public awareness of children's special needs and to recognize our local organizations who lead the way in providing the services in a very local way, in a very humane way, in a very loving way in our own districts, particularly through private and voluntary efforts. That is why I am a cosponsor of this bill with my friend and colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRBACHER), and why I would urge my colleagues to support and to vote for this.

Through its extensive network of community organizations, the Festival of Children Foundation offers resources, such as training and workshops, operation and technical support, and planning for conferences and special events to over 100 organizations. The highlight of all these activities is the Festival of Children, a month-long celebration of children, featuring the work of local children's charities.

Just last year, over 55 children's organizations from Orange County, as well as a select group from Los Angeles County, gathered at the South Coast Plaza retail center in Costa Mesa, California, for exhibits, for lectures, presentations, and lots of entertainment. The event was cosponsored by South Coast Plaza, and again I thank the Segerstrom family and Children's Hospital of Orange County, which actually sits in my district, and featured groups such as Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, Make-a-Wish

Foundation, Special Olympics, and the list goes on and on of all the people who participated to help our special kids in Orange County.

Over one million people visited South Coast Plaza during the festival. Not only did we have the festival going on, but of course there is great shopping there too; and we are very proud of that in Orange County. But the charities really reaped the rewards of this great opportunity because they were able to market themselves to our community. I, for example, have a young adult student organization that is a task force from all the high schools in my area, and they participate in trying to get their young people to these volunteer organizations because they have time on their hands. They just need to know the information. This is a great way when we hold this at South Coast Plaza.

In addition, all the programs that were presented that day were free to the public. The Orange County Board of Supervisors and the California legislature have already commended officially the Festival of Children and even recognized the month of September as Child Awareness Month.

I join my colleagues here today in recognizing the Festival of Children as a model for organizing communities to provide for the needs of their children.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, Walt Disney once said that "Our greatest natural resource is the minds of our children." Today we honor the Festival of Children Foundation, an organization with the specific purpose to improve the lives of children and families throughout Orange County, California by fostering education, community involvement, and the arts by collaborating with local children's charities.

Through their hard work and efforts, the Festival of Children Foundation has been able to showcase the work of non-profit groups as a way to increase exposure and sustain volunteer, leadership and financial support for these groups. The Foundation, being an umbrella organization, has made it possible to serve as a free recourse to these groups by encouraging collaborative efforts to serve the community as well as a place for groups to share ideas and lessons on community mobilization, planning and overall best practices. In the last two years, over 100 non-profit groups in southern California have benefited enormously from the exposure, partnership and assistance from the Festival of Children Foundation.

As another way to truly reach out and assist children, the Festival of Children Foundation had declared September 2004 as a month to "Celebrate the Magic of Childhood," working with 52 agencies and organizations to serve the children of southern California with high profile exhibits to continue with the Foundation's mission.

I would like to congratulate the Foundation on their excellent work and assisting to strengthen their community—most importantly, their efforts to benefit the lives of children.

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise as Chairman of the Education and Workforce Committee to add my voice to my voice to my distinguished California colleagues in paying tribute to the Festival of Children Foundation.

I believe the exceptional contributions and services of the Festival Foundation—both to the community and to the State of California—deserves national recognition. The Festival is a good example of private, non-profit groups and charities coming together to serve the public interest—in this case for the benefit of children. Mr. Speaker, the Education committee is always looking for children's programs that are creative, voluntary and community based. Helping our young people—whether it be in the area of children's education, health care, personal development or special needs—should be our highest calling.

This month-long Festival will bring together over 50 private, charitable organizations all under one roof. The goal is to improve collaboration, provide free resources and offer a forum for issues ranging from children's health care to the arts. It has become an invaluable resource for children's charities in Orange County, California.

I commend Sandy Segerstrom Daniels for her leadership in founding the Festival and the Foundation. It is truly a model for other communities in our country to follow.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this Resolution and to recognize the Festival of Children Foundation for its valuable service to the Orange County and Southern California communities.

As my colleagues said, the Foundation is an umbrella group with the specific purpose to improve the lives of children and families. Sandy Segerstrom Daniels, the founder, has had the vision and commitment to create the Festival and the ability to bring together people and organizations devoted to children's issues.

Groups involved in the fields of health, education and the arts all collaborate in the Festival. Lectures, exhibits and information booths at South Coast Plaza take place for the entire month of September. I credit the Festival for increasing public awareness of children's issues and for providing opportunities for the public and non-profit organizations to donate their time and resources. I am told that over two million visitors have seen the Festival's exhibits in the past.

Because of the success of the Festival, the California State Assembly and the Orange County Board of Supervisors have taken official actions commending the Festival. I believe it is now fitting and timely for the U.S. Congress to also recognize the Festival of Children by this Resolution.

I encourage all my colleagues to support the Resolution and thank my colleague DANA ROHRBACHER for presenting the Resolution.

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BONNER). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 759, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The title was amended so as to read: "A resolution commending the Festival of Children Foundation for its

outstanding efforts on behalf of children".

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF WILLIAM "COUNT" BASIE AND ACKNOWLEDGING HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO JAZZ AND SWING MUSIC

Mr. BURNS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 778) commemorating the 100th anniversary of the birth of William "Count" Basie and acknowledging his important contributions to jazz and swing music.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 778

Whereas on August 21, 1904, renowned pianist and bandleader William "Count" Basie was born in Red Bank, New Jersey;

Whereas in 1924, William "Count" Basie moved to New York City and, under the influence of James P. Johnson and Thomas "Fats" Waller, learned the style of piano known as stride piano, a contrasting constant beat from the left hand with a melodious right hand;

Whereas in 1927, William "Count" Basie's vibrant musical career took off when he moved to Kansas City, Missouri, and joined Walter Page's Blue Devils Band;

Whereas William "Count" Basie joined the Bennie Morton Band, and took over as bandleader in 1935, renaming the band "Count Basie and his Cherry Blossom Orchestra";

Whereas Count Basie and his Cherry Blossom Orchestra disbanded, but eventually reformed as the "Count Basie Orchestra";

Whereas the Count Basie Orchestra dominated the realms of jazz and swing for several decades;

Whereas the music of William "Count" Basie and the Count Basie Orchestra solidified the bond between the musical fashion of jazz and the mournful sounds of the blues;

Whereas William "Count" Basie and the Count Basie Orchestra established swing as a predominant force in the musical tastes of generations;

Whereas the music of William "Count" Basie maintained a lightness and precision that has set the tone for modern jazz accompanying styles;

Whereas William "Count" Basie perfected a style of piano known as comping, a syncopated and highly precise style of chords on the piano;

Whereas William "Count" Basie's most famous pieces included "One O'clock Jump", "Swingin' the Blues", "Jumpin' at the Woodside", "April in Paris", "Shiny Stockings", and "Every Day I Have the Blues";

Whereas in 1983, William "Count" Basie was awarded an American Jazz Masters Award by the National Endowment for the Arts;

Whereas in 1984, in honor of William "Count" Basie's accomplishments, an historic theater in his hometown of Red Bank, New Jersey, was renamed the "Count Basie Theatre";

Whereas in 1996, the United States Postal Service issued a commemorative postage stamp in honor of William "Count" Basie;

Whereas the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences awarded William "Count" Basie 9 Grammy Awards throughout his career, as well as the Grammy Trust-

ees Award in 1981, and the Lifetime Achievement Award in 2002; and

Whereas William "Count" Basie passed away on April 26, 1984, leaving his music and the Count Basie Orchestra as vivid reminders of his brilliant talent and influential career: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commemorates the 100th anniversary of the birth of William "Count" Basie; and

(2) acknowledges the important contributions of William "Count" Basie to jazz and swing music.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BURNS) and the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BURNS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BURNS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Res. 778.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in support of House Resolution 778, offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE), commemorating the 100th anniversary of the birth of William "Count" Basie, and acknowledging his important contributions to jazz and swing music.

William "Count" Basie was born in Red Bank, New Jersey, on August 21, 1904. His vibrant musical career took off in 1927 when he moved to Kansas City, Missouri, and joined Walter Page's Blue Devils Band. From there, William "Count" Basie joined the Bennie Morton Band and took over as band leader in 1935, renaming the band the Count Basie and his Cherry Blossom Orchestra.

Count Basie and his Cherry Blossom Orchestra disbanded, but eventually reformed as the Count Basie Orchestra, which went on to dominate the realms of jazz and swing for several decades. The Count Basie Orchestra established swing as a predominant force in the musical taste of generations, and their music set the tone for modern jazz.

In 1983, William "Count" Basie was awarded an American Jazz Masters Award by the National Endowment for the Arts. A historic theater in his hometown of Red Bank, New Jersey, was renamed the Count Basie Theater in 1984, and the United States Postal Service issued a commemorative stamp in his honor in 1996.

Over the years, the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences awarded William "Count" Basie nine Grammy Awards, which led to a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2002.

House Resolution 778 commemorates the 100th anniversary of the birth of William "Count" Basie and acknowledges his important contributions to jazz and swing music. Mr. Speaker, I